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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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## POLIOMYELITIS IN AUSTRALIA.

The information contained in the following statement was taken from a publication issued in the current year by the quarantine service of the Commonwealth of Australia, entitled "A Review of Recent Literature on Typhus Fever and Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis," by F. E. Cox, chief quarantine officer, Victoria, Australia:

*First recognized occurrence of poliomyelitis in Australia.*—It is probable that sporadic cases of poliomyelitis occurred in Australia during a considerable period before any outbreak of the disease was recorded. The first sporadic cases noted occurred in the year 1887. These were a case, presumably poliomyelitis, recorded by Hood as occurring on the Clarence River, New South Wales, and a case, type not specified, recorded by Altmann as occurring at Port Lincoln, South Australia. In 1890 three sporadic cases, all fatal, were recorded in New South Wales. In 1893 Stokes recorded three cases occurring in one family at Port Macquarie, New South Wales. The first recorded outbreak of poliomyelitis in Australia occurred at Port Lincoln, South Australia, in 1895.

*New South Wales.*—The outbreak of poliomyelitis at Sydney, the second to occur in Australia, began in the summer of 1903–1904. From Sydney the disease spread over the greater part of New South Wales and Queensland. Thirty-five cases were recorded at Sydney by Litchfield between November, 1903, and March, 1904, most of which occurred in December and January. The season was unusually wet and cool. During December, 1903, and January, 1904, 34 cases were noted in Sydney by Wade. These cases were of the spinal type and most of the patients were children under two and a half years of age. Six cases were recorded by Blackall as occurring at Queanbeyan early in the year. A fatal case (Landry's paralysis) was noted at Grafton. Eight cases were noted at Young.

Cases were reported in two other country districts of New South Wales—Armidale and Glen Innes.

In 1909 12 cases occurred at Sydney in March. Toward the end of the year, 20 cases occurred on the Richmond and Tweed Rivers, New South Wales.

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During the period from 1891 to 1913, 206 cases of infantile paralysis were admitted to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Camperdown, Sydney. From 1891 to 1908 the greatest number of cases admitted in any one year was 7, in 1895. From 1909 to 1913 the admissions were as follows: 1909, 29 cases; 1910, 22 cases; 1911, 16 cases; 1912, 46 cases; 1913, 50 cases.

During the year 1914, 79 cases (of which 64 occurred at Sydney), with one death, were notified in New South Wales.

*Queensland.*—The infection previously stated as present in the country districts of Armidale and Glen Innes, New South Wales, was conveyed in April, 1904, to Toowoomba, Queensland. The commissioner of public health for Queensland noted that 104 cases of poliomyelitis occurred in Queensland during that year. The outbreak was widely scattered, cases being reported at Brisbane, Ipswich, Maryborough, Toowoomba, and Townsville. The epidemic ended in February, 1905. Most of the cases occurred in October. One fatal case of Landry's disease was noted at Brisbane by Byrne.

An outbreak occurred at Brisbane in 1914 (described by Thomson). A few sporadic cases were observed in July and September and early in October the disease became epidemic. The outbreak ended in December. In all, 207 cases with 29 deaths were reported. The cases appeared in the central part of the city; the infection spread to the outlying suburbs, and finally to towns situated at some distance from Brisbane, such as Sandgate and Ipswich, which are directly connected with Brisbane by railway. Thus this outbreak ran the typical course of epidemics of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis). It is of interest to note that this epidemic and that of 1904-5 in Queensland, occurred during the dry season. The climate is better divided into wet and dry seasons than into the spring, summer, autumn, and winter of temperate regions. It is therefore comparable with that of the Pacific coast of the United States.

Outside the metropolitan area of Brisbane 125 cases were reported for the year July, 1914, to June, 1915. During the preceding year 6 cases were notified in Queensland, of which 3 occurred in Brisbane, while for the 12 months preceding that period 16 cases were notified in Brisbane and 22 throughout the rest of the State, a total of 38 cases.

*South Australia.*—The first outbreak of poliomyelitis recorded in Australia occurred at Port Lincoln, South Australia, in March and April, 1895. Fourteen cases, all of the spinal type, were noted. There were no fatalities.

*Tasmania.*—In March, 1909, 41 cases of poliomyelitis, of which 2 were regarded as doubtful, were reported as occurring in country districts of Tasmania. (Reported by Elkington in annual report to

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the department of public health.) Twelve cases were reported by Purdy in the Upper Huon district, Tasmania, in January, 1912.

*Victoria.*—In the autumn of 1908 an outbreak of poliomyelitis occurred in Victoria (described by H. D. Stephens), 108 cases with 6 deaths being recorded. Most of the cases occurred in densely populated districts. The season was exceptionally dry and warm. The outbreak began in April and ended in June. One case resembled Landry's paralysis. A small outbreak occurred at about the same time at Bendigo.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IN QUINCY, ILL.

By CARROLL FOX, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

The following report gives the results of a study of public health organization and administration in the city of Quincy, Ill. The study includes investigations in both the office and the field and was carried on throughout a period of about two weeks, from April 16, 1917, to May 1, 1917.

Quincy is situated on the Mississippi River and is the county seat of Adams County. It is about 262 miles southwest of Chicago and about 100 miles west of Springfield.

It is served by two systems of railroads—the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, and the Wabash—and by steamboat packets plying on the Mississippi River.

Quincy is provided with a beautiful park system and its topography is such that from the standpoint of city planning and the city beautiful the possibilities are great.

Quincy is a manufacturing center, and is surrounded by agricultural country. Among its industries of magnitude may be mentioned the manufacture of stoves and ranges, governors and pumps, farm machinery and implements, elevators, strawboard, incubators, furniture and fixtures, wagons, automobile bodies, breakfast foods, flour, shoes, boilers and structural steel, etc.

The population of Quincy, as estimated by the United States Census Bureau for July 1, 1916, is 36,798, there being an increase of population over the census of 1910 of but 204.

For information and assistance received while making the study, I am indebted to the officials of the health and other city departments, and to other citizens interested in the welfare of the community.

### ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

The city of Quincy is governed by a mayor and council.

The health organization of the city is known as the health department, and is under the control of a board of health, comprising two

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